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**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method in a data preparation program for  
2 transferring data in a data processing system, the method  
3 comprising:  
4 responsive to receiving user input, identifying data  
5 from a relational database and creating a temporary data  
6 set;  
7 reading data from a relational database table in the  
8 relational database into the temporary data set created  
9 in response to the user input;  
10 preparing the data read from the relational database  
11 table into the temporary data set to form prepared data  
12 for analysis;  
13 creating a database table for the relational  
14 database; and  
15 placing the prepared data into the database table,  
16 wherein the prepared data is ready for analysis.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 responsive to additional user input identifying data  
3 located in a plurality of database tables, reading data  
4 from the plurality of database tables into a plurality of  
5 data sets;  
6 merging the data from the plurality of data sets  
7 into a single data set; and  
8 preparing the data to form additional prepared data;  
9 and

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10       placing the additional prepared data in the single  
11 data set into the database table.

1    3.    The method of claim 2, wherein the merging step  
2 occurs after the step of preparing the data to form  
3 additional prepared data.

1    4.    The method of claim 1, wherein a data set in the  
2 plurality of data sets includes values for a data object  
3 and variables defining characteristics of the data  
4 object.

1    5.    The method of claim 1, wherein the data set is a SAS  
2 data set.

1    6.    The method of claim 1, wherein the generation of  
2 output flat files is avoided.

1    7.    The method of claim 1, wherein the user input is a  
2 query.

1    8.    A data processing system in a data preparation  
2 program for transferring data in a data processing  
3 system, the data processing system comprising:  
4       identifying means, responsive to receiving user  
5 input, for identifying data from a relational database  
6 and creating a temporary data set;  
7       reading means for reading data from a relational  
8 database table in the relational database into the  
9 temporary data set created in response to the user input;

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10        preparing means for preparing the data read from the  
11 relational database table into the temporary data set to  
12 form prepared data for analysis;  
13        creating means for creating a database table for the  
14 relational database; and  
15        placing means for placing the prepared data into the  
16 database table, wherein the prepared data is ready for  
17 analysis.

1    9.    The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 reading means is a first reading means, wherein the  
3 preparing means is a first preparing means, and wherein  
4 placing means is a first placing means, further  
5 comprising:  
6        second reading means, responsive to additional user  
7 input identifying data located in a plurality of database  
8 tables, for reading data from the plurality of database  
9 tables into a plurality of data sets;  
10       merging means for merging the data from the  
11 plurality of data sets into a single data set; and  
12       second preparing means for preparing the data to  
13 form additional prepared data; and  
14       second placing means for placing the additional  
15 prepared data in the single data set into the database  
16 table.

1    10.   The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the  
2 merging means is initiated after initiating the second  
3 preparing means.

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1 11. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein a  
2 data set in the plurality of data sets includes values  
3 for a data object and variables defining characteristics  
4 of the data object.

1 12. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 data set is a SAS data set.

1 13. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 generation of output flat files is avoided.

1 14. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 user input is a query.

1 15. A computer program product in a computer readable  
2 medium in a data preparation program for transferring  
3 data in a data processing system, the computer program  
4 product comprising:

5 first instructions, responsive to receiving user  
6 input, for identifying data from a relational database  
7 and creating a temporary data set;

8 second instructions for reading data from a  
9 relational database table in the relational database into  
10 the temporary data set created in response to the user  
11 input;

12 third instructions for preparing the data read from  
13 the relational database table into the temporary data set  
14 to form prepared data for analysis;

15 fourth instructions for creating a database table  
16 for the relational database; and

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17 fifth instructions for placing the prepared data  
18 into the database table, wherein the prepared data is  
19 ready for analysis.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 15, further  
2 comprising: sixth instructions responsive to a user input  
3 identifying data located in a plurality of database  
4 tables, for reading data from the plurality of database  
5 tables into a plurality of data sets;  
6 seventh instructions for merging the data from the  
7 plurality of data sets into a single data set; and  
8 eighth instructions for preparing the data to form  
9 additional prepared data; and  
10 ninth instructions for placing the additional  
11 prepared data in the single data set into the database  
12 table.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein  
2 the seventh instructions are executed after the eighth  
3 instructions.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein a  
2 data set in the plurality of data sets includes values  
3 for a data object and variables defining characteristics  
4 of the data object.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein  
2 the data set is a SAS data set.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein  
2 the generation of output flat files is avoided.

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1 21. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein  
2 the user input is a query.

1 22. A data processing system comprising:  
2 a bus system;  
3 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the  
4 memory includes a set of instructions; and  
5 a processing unit connected to the bus system, to  
6 identify data from a relational database and create a  
7 temporary data set, in response to receiving user input;  
8 read data from a relational database table in the  
9 relational database into the temporary data set created  
10 in response to the user input; prepare the data read from  
11 the relational database table into the temporary data set  
12 to form prepared data for analysis; create a database  
13 table for the relational database; and place the prepared  
14 data into the database table, wherein the prepared data  
15 is ready for analysis